

**ROSLYN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Meeting of the Board of Education**

**Tuesday, June 16, 2020**

**8:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**The follow participants were present via ZOOM videoconference.**

Meryl W. Ben-Levy, President  
Clifford Saffron, Vice President  
David Dubner  
Michael Levine  
Steven Litvack  
David Seinfeld arrived at 9:00 p.m.  
Bruce Valauri

**ALSO PRESENT**

Allison Brown	Superintendent
Joseph C. Dragone	Assistant Superintendent for Business and Administration
Karina Báez	Assistant Superintendent for Primary Education
Michael Goldspiel	Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Nancy Carney Jones	District Clerk
Carrie Anne Tondo	District Counsel

**ABSENT**

Andrew Antenberg	Student Delegate
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**Ms. Ben-Levy called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.**

Preliminary Announcements

Ms. Ben-Levy read the following statement:

The Roslyn Union Free School District continues to take steps to reduce the potential for exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The District's efforts in this regard are made in furtherance of federal, state, and local mandates to limit any and all public gatherings.

As authorized by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, issued on March 12, 2020, and as extended by subsequent Executive Orders, this meeting is being held remotely by videoconferencing and the public will not be permitted to attend the meeting in-person. The Board of Education will make a motion setting forth the manner in which the meeting will be conducted and waiving any applicable policies or common practices with respect to the conduct of the meeting. The public participation portion of

the meeting will be suspended. The meeting will be video broadcasted in order to provide the public with the ability to view the meeting. This meeting will also be recorded and later transcribed in accordance with Executive Order 202.1, as extended.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to suspend the meeting. She said, the purpose of tonight's meeting is to announce and accept the results of the canvassing of the absentee ballots for the June 9, 2020 annual budget vote. At this time, the canvassing has not concluded. The Board of Education, as per counsel, needs to suspend to a time certain with the hope we will not need to suspend more than once this evening.**

**Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to suspend the proceedings until 9:00 p.m. at which time we will reconvene.**

**Ms. Ben-Levy moved, Mr. Saffron seconded; carried by a vote of 6-0, (Mr. Seinfeld not in attendance) to suspend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. and reconvene at that time.**

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**Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to resume the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

**Ms. Ben-Levy moved, Mr. Saffron seconded; carried by a vote of 7-0, to reconvene the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

**Ms. Ben-Levy stated she would be announcing the results of the ballot canvassing and she read the following statement:**

As authorized by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.39, dated June 7, 2020, this vote was held by absentee ballot for the budget vote and election scheduled for June 9, 2020. All absentee ballots received by mail in the office of the Clerk of the School District was extended to be received no later than June 16, 2020 and were canvassed for this budget vote and election. The Clerk of the District accepted no absentee ballots for this budget vote and election after 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020, except those received by mail in accordance with Executive Order 202.39. Any receptacle used for hand delivery of absentee ballots was closed and removed by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020. The canvassing of absentee ballots on June 16, 2020 started at 5 p.m. and concluded by 9:00 p.m.

**Ms. Ben-Levy announced the following tally of the budget vote:**

- Proposition One – Budget 2020- 2021 School Year  
1,808 votes in favor 678 votes opposed
- Proposition Two – Buses  
1,708 votes in favor 771 votes opposed

- Proposition Three – 2020 Capital Reserve Fund  
1,792 votes in favor 660 votes opposed

**Board Trustee**

- Clifford Saffron - 1,992 votes
- Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy - 2,054 votes

There were write-in votes for the position of Board Trustee, but no votes that would interfere with the election of trustees. The list of write-ins for Board Trustee will be on next board agenda.

**ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & ELECTION:**

Ms. Ben-Levy read the following:

EDUCATION LAW REQUIRES THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE CANVASING OF THE BALLOTS.

Annual Budget Vote and Election of Trustees                      Tuesday, June 9, 2020

In accordance with the NOTICE duly published for two weeks in The Roslyn News and Long Island Business News, the vote upon the budget, and selection of two members of the Board of Education was by absentee ballot on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Copy of OFFICIAL BALLOT is attached to the official minutes of this meeting.)

Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy and Clifford Saffron were appointed by the Board of Education to be the Chairpersons of the Meeting. Ms. Ben-Levy declared the opening of the canvas of the ballots at 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2020 pursuant to Executive Order 202.39 and Ms. Ben-Levy announced the closing of the canvas of ballots at 9:00 p.m. The results of the vote on Propositions 1, 2, and 3 were as follows:

**Proposition #1:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed budget of expenditures adopted by the Board of Education of the Roslyn Union Free School District for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$115,330,236 be approved, and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources as provided by law.

VOTES

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1,808	678

**Proposition #2**

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to (a) purchase various school buses and vans for use by the District, including related equipment and apparatus, and to expend therefor, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$529,866.67; (b) that a tax is hereby voted in the aggregate amount of not to exceed \$529,866.67 to pay such cost, said tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by said Board of Education; (c) that in anticipation of said tax, bonds of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of not to exceed \$529,866.67 and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said bonds as the same shall become due and payable, and (d) that, in lieu of bonds, the District is authorized to enter

into one or more installment purchase contracts for the purchase of some or all of said buses and vans, for a term not to exceed five (5) years; and a tax is hereby voted to pay each installment on any such contract

VOTES

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1,708	771

**Proposition #3**

**2020 Capital Reserve Fund**

SHALL the Board of Education, pursuant to Education Law section 3651, be authorized to establish a Capital Reserve Fund known as the “2020 Capital Reserve Fund” for the following purposes: performing capital improvements at the District’s facilities, including: masonry renovation, plumbing upgrades, electrical upgrades, mechanical upgrades (including heating, ventilation and air conditioning), replacement of underground storage tanks, security upgrades, technology upgrades, telephone upgrades, roof replacements, door replacements, window replacements, site work, classroom and corridor renovations, furnishings and equipment, purchase of real property, purchase of district vehicles, all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto.

The maximum amount of the aforesaid 2020 Capital Reserve Fund shall be \$25,000,000.00, plus investment income. The probable term is to be twenty-five (25) years; the funds are to be transferred from surplus monies, if any, remaining in the general fund including a sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 from the 2019-2020 budget and thereafter in an annual amount of not more than \$5,000,000 for each remaining year of the probable term. Upon the establishment and funding of said reserve, the Superintendent of Schools or her designee shall be directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the “2020 Capital Reserve Fund.”

VOTES

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1,792	660

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Two (2) -Three (3) year terms commencing July 1, 2020 and expiring June 30, 2023

The results of the Election of Trustees as announced by the Chairperson of the Meeting were:

Clifford Saffron (1,992)                      Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy (2,054)

Write-In Votes: We had several candidates as write-in

WITH A QUORUM OF THE BOARD BEING PRESENT VIA ZOOM, I ASK THAT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE OF THE TRUSTEES:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Roslyn Union Free School District hereby accepts the results of the June 9, 2020 Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election.

<b>Meryl W. Ben-Levy</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Clifford Saffron</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Dubner</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Michael Levine</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Steven Litvack</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Seinfeld</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bruce Valauri</b>	<b>Yes</b>

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: **Meryl W. Ben-Levy and Clifford Saffron**

Nancy Carney Jones  
District Clerk

### **Board President's Comments**

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy thanked the School Administration, District Clerk, staff and election workers for "their hard work, steadfast efforts and devotion" to make the budget vote a success.

Mr. Seinfeld commented that the budget vote's results were the work of many years of hard work by Ms. Ben-Levy, Mr. Saffron and members of the Board of Education. . He spoke of the challenges of the current voting process and the economy, which may cause certain district's budgets to fail. Mr. Seinfeld stated, "To pass a budget as we did tonight is honestly remarkable." In addition, Mr. Seinfeld commented on the benefits and importance of the school district having its own bus fleet. He acknowledged that one of the most important benefits is how our drivers' take care of the children of Roslyn.

Ms. Ben-Levy thanked Mr. Seinfeld for his comments "for remembering who we are and for what we have held so dear for so many years." Ms. Ben-Levy spoke of "how owning our own bus fleet and managing our own staff has proven time and time again to benefit this community enormously. " She spoke of the good decisions the board has been able to make together and the thoughtful way the Administration has been able to advise them.

### **Adjournment**

**There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Saffron carried by a vote of 7-0; to adjourn at 9:13 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

*Nancy Carney Jones*  
**Nancy Carney Jones**  
**District Clerk**